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1992

Department of Agriculture
Grain Inspection Service

Registration of Companies Exporting U.S. Grain



Legislative Background

In 1916, Congress passed the United States Grain Standards Act (the Act) to establish a uniform national grain grading program. Historically, this national inspection system has played an important role in the movement of grain in interstate and foreign markets. In 1976, Congress amended the Act to strengthen the U.S. grain marketing system. The key provision of this amendment was the creation of the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), a new inspection agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

FGIS administers uniform, nationwide programs for officially inspecting and weighing grain, as provided for in the Act. The Act requires official certification of all grain exported from the United States. Grain is defined as wheat, corn, rye, oats, barley, flaxseed, sorghum, soybeans, triticale, sunflower seeds, mixed grain, and canola.

The 1976 amendments to the Act also required companies exporting U.S. grain to register with FGIS. These registration requirements established individual and corporate accountability of firms involved in foreign and interstate commerce grain trade. The Act provides administrative, civil, and/or criminal penalties for firms that export grain without being registered.

How to Register

To register, applicants must submit an application form (FGIS-945), which contains information on ownership, names of officers and directors, and locations of grain operations. The submission of this information does not infringe upon any trade secrets or other private business matters.

The registration program is fee supported, and applicants must pay an annual registration fee to cover administration costs. The charge is based on the nature of the operation: \$135 for foreign commerce grain trade, or \$270 if the firm is involved in both foreign and interstate grain trade.

Upon receipt of the application and the fee, FGIS issues a Certificate of Registration.

Registration Renewal

Registration is an annual process, and all certificates terminate December 31 of the year issued. Approximately 3 months prior to termination, FGIS notifies each registrant of the pending expiration and requests the submission of a new application.

Do you export
U.S. grain?

Are you
registered with
the Federal Grain
Inspection
Service?

Should you be?



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For information about registration, contact:

Compliance Division
USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service
Room 1647-South
P.O. Box 96454
Washington, DC 20090-6454

Telephone: (202) 720-8262
Fax: (202) 720-1015

April 1992